

B O R O U G H A N D P O R T O F S A N D W I C H

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1956

-----oOo-----

Mayor:

ALDERMAN J.J. THOMAS

Chairman - Public Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR F.J. SNELLING

Public Health Committee: Alderman G. Cleverly
Alderman Sir. W. Prescott-Westcar, Bart.
Alderman E.T. Turner
Councillor W. Baxter
Councillor A. Mottershead
Councillor D.S. Pettet
Councillor L.R. Barlow
Councillor Major L.F.W. Tomlinson
Councillor Miss M.R. Turner
Councillor R. Hambidge
Councillor J.G. Jezzard
Councillor Mrs. I.E. Boyle
Councillor N.H. Cork
Councillor A.H. Jutson

-----oOo-----

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Public Health Inspector	G.T. ROWLANDS
Additional Public Health Inspector ...	A.H. LAWRENCE
Clerk	Miss E.V. Miles

-----oOo-----

Town Clerk

L.N. WATTS

Surveyor

G.T. ROWLANDS



1871

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have please in presenting the report on public health matters for 1956, and am indebted to your Chief Officials for their helpful co-operation during the year.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Population: The population of the Borough at mid 1956 was 4,600, This population figure bears no true relation to the daytime population, greatly increased by local industry and commerce.

Area: The area of 2,137 acres was unchanged.

Births: 56 births occurred of which 31 were male and 25 female. One male birth and 2 female births occurred outside wedlock.

Stillbirths: In addition to the births 2 stillbirths occurred, one of each sex.

Deaths: The total deaths numbered 42, of which 22 were males and 20 females, There were 2 infant deaths under 1 year of age, of which 1 was under 4 weeks.

The causes of death were as follows:- Male Female

Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-
All Malignant Neoplasms	4	3
(Lungs	1	-)
(Breast	-	1)
(Other	3	2)
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	-	3
Coronary Disease and Angina	-	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-
Other Heart Disease	4	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-
Congenital Malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
All other accidents	-	-

TOTAL: .. 22 20 - 42

Age Distribution of Deaths

Age	0-1	1-45	46-65	66-80	81-90	90+
Male	1	-	7	10	4	-
Female	1	-	3	12	2	2
Total:	2	-	10	22	6	2

Vital Statistical Rates

Births - 12.17 per 1,000
 Corrected birth rate - 14.11 (C.F. 1.16) England & Wales 15.6

Deaths - 9.13 per 1,000
 Corrected death rate - 8.21 (C.F. 0.9) England & Wales 11.7

Infectious Diseases

- Scarlet Fever - No cases were notified as occurring locally but one local child developed the disease on holiday, with the probable infection occurring here.
- Measles - Only 1 case was notified. This was not a measles year as we were in the trough of incidence after a lively 1955.
- Whooping Cough - Only 13 cases occurred. 3 in the first quarter, 8 in the second and 2 in the third. 5 were under 5, 6 between 5 - 10 years and 2 between 10 and 15.

The only other case notified was a male adult with erysipelas.

Tuberculosis

One male case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year, and one case was registered after death, not having been notified, the cause of death being other than the pulmonary tuberculosis.

The state of the Register at the end of 1956 was:

Respiratory Tuberculosis

Non Respiratory Tuberculosis

<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
11	14	25

<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
3	1	4

Total on Register - 29

Mass Radiography Survey

In November 1956 the Mass Radiography Unit set up on the Barbican for a week during which 1,255 persons voluntarily submitted to an x-ray of the chest. 5% were recalled for a second check, two cases of active tuberculosis were found and referred to the family doctor and 17 persons made aware of past and inactive trouble. Members of the surrounding rural community took advantage of the visit.

Housing the Tuberculous

The Council is sympathetic to such cases as present true need, and advice is sought from the medical officer of health on such cases. Every effort is made to give a reliable opinion justified by the circumstances, and clinical state.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Primary immunisation was carried out on 57 children during the year, either at the Welfare Centre or by the family doctor. In addition 98 reinforcing injections were administered. 80% of the immunised children have a good level of protection and the proportion of children protected either fully or partially is over 80% of the child population.

Year of Birth	1942	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	Total
Last complete course of injections whether primary or booster 1952 - 1956	22	49	49	36	66	78	44	38	58	39	66	43	56	44	9	697
1951 or earlier	20	10	15	30	41	7	7	16	26	3	-	-	-	-	-	175

Vaccination

42 persons were vaccinated of whom 33 were under 2 years of age. 13 revaccinations were carried out.

This rate of vaccination represents a reduced proportion of the new births and can be increased with advantage.

Staff Changes

During the year there have been no changes in the staff of the Public Health Department.

Water Supply

The Sandwich Water Undertaking was taken over by the newly constructed Thanet Water Board under the Kent Water Act, 1955.

Therefore this department is only concerned in the routine sampling of the water from the mains. During the year 11 water samples were taken and submitted for Bacteriological analysis and in every case the sample was reported on as highly satisfactory. Chemical analysis also proved it to be a good water.

Drainage

During the year attention has been paid both to the alleviation of flooding in the town and also to the future disposal of the effluent from the Town sewers.

In the past trouble has been experienced in the Woodnesborough area during periods of heavy rain through the sewers being surcharged with surface water. To relieve this a new surface water sewer has been laid in the Woodnesborough road from Higher Poulders Gardens to Laburnum Avenue, discharging into a dyke. This sewer will only take surface water, most of which previously gained access to the sewer and should do much to prevent the sewer becoming over charged with the consequent flooding.

With regard to the disposal of the sewage either to a sewage works or direct to the sea, work has continued in accumulating the necessary data and passing it on to Messrs. Scott, Wilson and Kirkpatrick (the Council's consulting Engineers). During the year a preliminary report was received from this firm and it is hoped that a visit to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government can be arranged early in 1957.

Meat and Other Foods

The following table shows the comparative kills at the Loop Street Abattoir over the last three years.

			<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Cattle	..	..	1,435	1,582	1,753
Calves	..	..	525	947	1,501
Sheep	..	..	2,620	2,843	6,102
Pigs	..	..	5,933	11,494	13,041
			-----	-----	-----
	TOTAL..		<u>10,513</u>	<u>16,866</u>	<u>22,397</u>

All these animals were inspected post-mortem and many anti-mortem and a total of 11 tons 18 cwts. of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

In my last report I stated that evening and week-end inspection had become a regular routine and the increased kill during the year only emphasised this. The way things are going it is more than likely that the 1957 figures will show an even greater jump in the numbers killed with the burden on the meat inspectors becoming even heavier.

Although the figures of condemned meat are up on last year it is worth noting that the improvement in the quality of the animals still continues. During the year considerable numbers of animals were exported from the Port of Richborough and a large number of rejects were sent to the Sandwich abattoir for immediate slaughter. If the condemnations from these rejects were excluded from the total, then the total condemnations would be down on 1955 in spite of a greatly increased kill.

The following table gives the breakdown of the condemnations and when you consider that many of the animals are grazed on marsh land where the possibility of picking up parasites is greatly increased, these percentages are very good.

	8 CATTLE Not Cows	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP LAMBS	PIGS	HORSES
Number Killed	1,077	676	1,501	6,102	13,041	-
Number Inspected ..	1,077	676	1,501	6,102	13,041	-
ALL DISEASES - Carcases Condemned (Not T.B. or Cystercercosis)	2	9	5	38	15	-
ALL DISEASES - Organs & Part Carcases	245	200	3	330	755	-
% of No. Inspected Diseased	23.9	30.9	0.53	6.0	5.1	-
T.B. - Only Whole Carcases Condemned	1	11	-	-	1	-
T.B. - Part Carcase or Organ	45	110	-	-	247	-
% of No. Inspected	4.2	17.0	-	-	1.0	-
CYSTERCERCOSIS - Part or Organ	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases Treated by Refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally Condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Food and Food Preparation Premises

All Food Shops and Food Preparation premises have been regularly inspected throughout the year, and a total of 125 visits were made for this purpose. Whole hearted co-operation has always been experienced and suggestions made during the visits have always been promptly acted upon.

Part of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 came into force in January 1956, and the remainder in July of that year, and here again traders have been most co-operative in making the Act work smoothly.

Butchers Shops

All Butchers Shops, food preparation rooms and vehicles have been regularly inspected and high standards have been maintained and improved.

Licenced Premises

The policy of inspecting licenced premises has continued and considerable improvements have been made.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the area but 19 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. Only cafe's deal in bulk ice cream and the others are only registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream.

During the year 7 samples of ice cream were taken for analysis. Five were Grade I and 2 Grade II.

Bakeries

The routine inspection of Bakeries continued throughout the year and in general the standards are high.

Shops

All food shops were inspected during the year and 230 lbs. of tinned and other food stuff were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

Milk and Dairies

A. Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, Part III

No. of registered distributors	..	..	4
No. of registered dairies	..	..	-

- B. Licences granted under Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949, excluding licences granted by Food and Drug Authorities in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicant.

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised ..	2	3
Sterilised ..	2	-
T.T. (raw) ..	2	2
Accredited ..	-	-

During the year 6 milk samples were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis. Of these 3 were satisfactory and 3 were void as the shade temperature was in excess of 65°F.

Housing

Council Property

During the year 5 houses were built on the Council Housing Estate. These houses completed the estate as originally planned and to build further units it will be necessary to acquire further land.

Other Property

14 schemes were submitted during the year for works of improvement or conversion of dwellings. The cost of these schemes which is eligible for grant amounted to £4,399 and grants amounting to £2,115 were approved.

The majority of these grants were in respect of old property in the centre of the Borough which upon changing hands have had improvements carried out. This type of action is of considerable benefit to the town as sub-standard houses are brought up to condition without affecting the general street appearance.

Slum Clearance

The Housing survey was completed in 1955 and the plan for dealing with the sub-standard property was adopted by the Council.

As a first step negotiations have taken place during the year to acquire land to the rear of Creighton House, Strand Street, upon which to erect a block of flats. These flats will be used to rehouse tenants from the first Clearance Area and any surplus as temporary accommodation for tenants from other properties whilst major works are being carried out.

Although this stage of the plan has not taken place as yet, certain sub-standard properties in the Borough have been dealt with by the owners with the assistance of the improvement grants.

This action was anticipated in the original scheme but in itself it is insufficient and the work will only be speeded up when new units of accommodation are available.

During the year the following action was taken on houses included as sub-standard in the 1955 report.

- 3 Dwellings brought up to standard
- 2 Dwellings closed
- 3 Dwellings demolished.

Inspections

During the year 94 houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts in a total of 220 visits.

The following table summarises these visits:-

1. No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health & Housing Act	94
2. No. of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	67
3. No. of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense ..	19
4. No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	39
5. No. of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	7
6. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	2
7. No. of houses demolished	-

Refuse Removal

The weekly collection of refuse and the disposal by controlled tipping on a site adjacent to the Ash Road remains unchanged. This collection was previously made by a Karrier Bantam refuse vehicle, but during the year a Karrier Gamecock refuse vehicle was purchased and put into use instead of the Bantam. The Gamecock is a larger vehicle, holding half as much again as the Bantam so the number of trips to the tip for unloading has been considerably reduced and the time spent on actual collection increased.

The tipping has been properly controlled and although evidence of rats was found prompt treatment abated this nuisance.

Rodent Control

During the year routine inspection under the pests acts and normal treatments continued. 63 properties were inspected under this Act, whilst a further 361 properties were inspected primarily for other reasons but care was taken to note the presence or otherwise of vermin. A total of 41 properties

and 3 Agricultural Holdings received treatments or re-treatments. During the year two sewer treatments were carried out. The manholes chosen for these treatments were chosen to give as fair a picture of the sewers infestation in the Borough as possible. It was found that the infestation was very minor and only the sewers near the river were affected.

Rainfall

During the year a total of 22.11 inches of rain fell in Sandwich. The monthly figures were as follows:-

January	..	..	4.52
February	..	..	1.76
March	..	..	.32
April	..	..	.67
May	..	..	.36
June	..	..	2.44
July	..	..	2.47
August	..	..	2.62
September	..	..	1.88
October	..	..	1.97
November	..	..	.58
December	..	..	2.52

22.11 inches

Shipping

Shipping	No.	Registered Tonnage	No. of Inspections	No. with Infectious Disease
Foreign Going	106	13,132	13	..
Coast Wise	68	9,087	4	..
Total	174	22,219	17	..

During the year 174 ships visited the port and 43,050 tons of Cargo was dealt with. This compares very favourably with last year when 72 ships called at the port and 19,624 tons of cargo was handled. The cargoes dealt with consisted of:-

Cattle	Granite chippings
Fuel Oil	Car parts and light machinery
Timber	Seed Potatoes
Sand	

All vessels entering the port were visited and in three instances action had to be taken as the result of these visits.

Export of Cattle

During the year a thriving trade in the export to the Continent of cattle occurred, and this was mainly responsible for the increase in the number of vessels and the tonnage of cargo dealt with.

The conditions under which the animals were held at the port and the state of the vessels taking them away intimately concerned this department. A total of 19 visits were made to the port for this purpose. It was found that the animals were held for several days but that satisfactory provision was made for the feeding and watering of the animals. The vessels collecting the animals were either properly designed Cattle Boats or boats that had been converted for this use. In all cases conditions were good and the vessels properly equipped, well ventilated and efficiently partitioned.

During the year no cases of Infectious Disease was found among the crews of the vessels and no visits by the Medical Officer were required.

The traffic dealt with by the port is purely coast wise and small foreign going vessels and no inland traffic occurs on the River Stour.

Factories

	No. on Register	Inspections	Notices
1. In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are enforced by L.A.	3	-	-
2. Factories not in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	35	22	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	-	-	-
Total:	38	22	-

Some defects were found but were corrected without formal action.

Outwork

There were 19 outworkers making containers of paper.

Summary of Inspections

Sanitation and Hygiene of Buildings	..	..	274
Housing Act	..	..	220
Shops Act	..	..	14
Food Premises	..	..	101
Petroleum Act	..	..	35
Factories Act	..	..	22
Miscellaneous	..	..	197
Council Houses	..	..	173
Ident and Shipping Pests Act	..	..	29
Water Supply	..	..	15
Complaints	..	..	18
Drain Tests	..	..	3
Housing App.	..	..	1
Infection and Shipping..	..	..	15
Samples	..	..	7
Total..			1,124

